



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

JOHN PIERPONT MORGAN AND
HIS SERVICE TO THE
MUSEUM

AT the meeting of the Board of Trustees held on Monday, April 22, the following resolution, prepared by a committee consisting of Elihu Root, Lewis Cass Ledyard, and Henry S. Pritchett, was adopted. This resolution has been sent separately in appropriate form to all our members. It is inserted in the BULLETIN as a matter of record.

The Trustees of the Metropolitan Museum of Art wish to make a formal and—so far as possible—permanent record of the great service rendered to the Metropolitan Museum and to the American people through the Museum by the late JOHN PIERPONT MORGAN and they direct that the following minute be entered in the records of the Corporation.

JOHN PIERPONT MORGAN, born April 17, 1837, died March 31, 1913, was the most powerful and dominant personality in the field of finance during the period between the American Civil War and the Universal War of 1914—a period distinguished by the most amazing development of industrial organization and productiveness ever known in the history of the world. The conduct and control of great affairs during this time of intense activity brought to him a great fortune, continuous labor, and heavy responsibility; yet neither wealth nor pressure of labor and responsibility prevented the growth and exercise of very noble qualities of patriotic citizenship and human sympathy. He loved his Country and his kind. Expressing himself seldom in words but constantly in deeds, he was a part of all good causes. Generous almost to a fault, modest and unassuming, he did good in secret all his life without thought of praise or recognition. He loved all forms of beauty, and with his largeness of nature and of means he became the greatest art collector of his time, and in the history of art his name must always rank with those great princes of the Old World who in former centuries protected and encouraged

genius. He was as unselfish with his treasures of art as he was with his fortune. He believed that the happiness of a whole people can be increased through the cultivation of taste, and he strongly desired to contribute to that end among his own countrymen. His last will carried on to his descendants the influence of that feeling in the wishes which he expressed regarding the disposition of his great collections.

The most marked expression of this impulse during Mr. Morgan's lifetime was in his service to this Museum. He was one of the original subscribers to the preliminary fund raised in 1870 as the basis for the organization of the Museum, and from that time for all the remaining forty-three years of his life he never failed in his constant support of the institution. He was one of the first fifty patrons whose names appear upon the list of 1871 as members of the Corporation. He became a Trustee in 1888, and discharged the duties of that office for twenty-five years until his death. He was a member of the Executive Committee and of the Finance Committee of the Board from 1892 to 1894, a member of the Executive Committee again from 1901 until his election as First Vice-President in 1904, when he became as he ever after remained an ex-officio member of the Committee. He was elected President in 1904, and remained President until the time of his death. His first recorded gift to the Museum was in 1897, and for the sixteen years which followed there was a rapid succession of valuable and princely gifts. In the summer of 1913 his son, who bears the name and inherits the spirit of his father, placed substantially the whole of his father's vast collections upon loan exhibition in the new northern wing of the Museum building. Further gifts by the son of almost priceless objects have followed, and now the present John Pierpont Morgan upon the settlement of his father's estate has found himself able to honor the memory and execute the purposes of his father by presenting to the Museum a large part of the collection, including more than three thousand objects.

The gifts of the father, and of the son in memory of the father—with the exception of some articles which proper classification requires to be arranged elsewhere—are to be exhibited henceforth by themselves in a wing of the Museum to be called in memoriam The Pierpont Morgan Wing. An enumeration of these gifts in general terms is recorded as a part of this minute.¹

Incalculable in value as are these gifts, they should not obscure the memory of Mr. Morgan's service to American art and American education in art as President of the Museum. When he came to the presidency the Museum had passed through the period of early struggles and local significance, and the point had been

reached when the question was to be determined whether the original impulse was to spend itself, satisfied with a local and provincial success, or whether, on the other hand, the institution was to be developed into one of the great museums and educational influences of the world. Mr. Morgan's presidency decided that question. His sure knowledge of the field, the largeness of his instinctive methods, his dauntless courage, his vision, and his faith, breathed into the institution a new life, communicated to it a new and tremendous impulse, and inaugurated a new period of development, which, so far as we can judge, makes certain a future of power and usefulness for which our Country and all the people in the New World who love art and the influences of art will owe honor to his name.

¹See the BULLETIN, vol. XIII, January, 1918, pp. 2-20.